



LASSEN COUNTY
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

February 24, 2003, 3:30 p.m.
1345 Barry Creek Plaza, Suite B
Susanville, California

Commissioners Present: Karol Merten, Doug McCoy, Mae Sherman, Janice Irvin, Patsy Jimenez

Commissioners Absent: , Jim Chapman, Sheral Thorlaksson, Bobby Malone, Elizabeth Elam, Shannon Gerig, Alternate, Kathy Colvin, Alternate, Brian Dahle, Alternate

Commission Staff: Laura Roberts, Absent, Dennis Wilkes, Present

Community Members: Jean Hodge, Janet Lasick, Paul Holmes

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Chairperson, Karol Merten called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. The Chairperson welcomed everyone, and all introduced themselves.

2. **Special Meeting Regarding Children's Oral Health:** The reason for the special meeting was presented. An opportunity exists to try to recruit a dentist from Modoc County to come to Lassen County to help meet the oral health needs of children. The role that the Commission can play in the development of this community asset as well as a comprehensive children's oral health program was reviewed.

Janet Lasick of Northeastern Rural Health Clinic reported on the dental clinic and the need for additional local dental health providers and a comprehensive program. She indicated that the Modoc Dental Clinic is closing and the dentist from that clinic may be available if an employment offer can be made to bring him here. Financial support from the Commission is needed to help this happen.

Jean Hodge reported on incidence of decay that is being found among children that are being screened by the Lassen Registered Dental Hygiene Association. The rate of decay has been staggering.

Paul Holmes stated that there is no facility for dental services in areas outside of Susanville, and perhaps some thought could be given to renting space or utilizing a mobile unit. He stated that there is great need for a comprehensive program, that would include facilities, operating staff, equipment, supplies, operational costs, etc. He indicated that Lassen Community Hospital has expressed an interest in providing in-kind support to such a program. He stated that the very component of such a program that will eventually create the greatest long term measurable results is education. This is non-reimbursable but is key to solving the current epidemic. He added that a full time case manager/coordinator is needed to oversee a county-wide program, and to connect children and families to services. The question was presented, is the Commission interested in developing a county-wide oral health initiative?

Commissioners questioned the willingness of private dentists and others to partner in such an effort, the potential cost of such an initiative, and whether other counties have developed and funded such projects. In general the Commission is supportive of the development of an oral health initiative. Additional information was requested. After a lengthy discussion, Janet Lasick from Northeastern was asked to develop a proposal for a children's oral health project and to present it to the Commission on March 6th. Laura and Dennis were asked to further detail the Commission's investments and to clearly indicate any funds that are potentially available to fund such an initiative.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura J. Roberts
Executive Director